United Nations E/2015/SR.16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 April 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Integration segment

Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 30 March 2015, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Drobnjak (Vice-President) ..... (Croatia)

Contents

Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

15-05041 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all (*continued*)

1. *A panel discussion on the topic "Mind the gap: How widening inequalities undermine development", moderated by Mr. Matthew Bishop, Globalisation Editor, The Economist, was held. The panellists were Mr. Alfonso Navarrete Prida (Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Mexico); Mr. Hu Xiaoyi (Vice-Minister, Human Resources and Social Security, China); Ms. Sharan Burrow (General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation); and Ms. Stephanie Seguino (Professor, Department of Economics, University of Vermont). The panellists made statements and an interactive discussion ensued, during which the panellists responded to comments and questions from the moderator and a representative of the non-governmental organization Gray Panthers, in consultative status with the Council.*

2. **Mr. Dhakiri** (Observer for Indonesia), introducing the report on the country-level consultation for the integration segment, said that the conclusions of the consultation, which had been held in Jakarta on 24 and 25 February 2015 under the theme "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all", were available on the Council's website, and highlighted some of the issues that had been raised.

3. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia), introducing the report on the Latin American and Caribbean preparatory meeting held in Lima on 13 October 2014 under the theme "Decent work, climate change and sustainable development", highlighted some of the issues that had been raised.

4. *A panel discussion on the topic "Voices from the real economy", moderated by Mr. Michael Shank, Director of Media Strategy, Climate Nexus, and Senior Fellow, JustJobs Network, was held. The panellists were Ms. Nomvuzo Shabalala (Deputy Mayor of Durban, South Africa); Mr. Sanjay Kumar (Director, Self Employed Women's Association Bharat, India); Ms. Vicenta Trotman (community leader and member of the Administrative Board of Rural Water Supply, Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous territory of the Ño Kribo region, Panama); and Mr. Paul Hazen (Executive Director, United States Overseas Cooperative Development Council, International Cooperative Alliance). The panellists made statements and an interactive discussion ensued, during which the panellists responded to comments and questions from the moderator and the representative of Argentina.*

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations E/2015/SR.17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Integration segment

Summary record of the 17th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 31 March 2015, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Drobnjak (Vice-President) ..... (Croatia)

Contents

Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

15-05205 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all (*continued*)

1. *A panel discussion on the topic "Solutions to climate change: Growing decent jobs", moderated by Mr. Michael Renner (Senior Researcher, The Worldwatch Institute, United States of America), was held. The panellists were Mr. Miles Sampa (Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia); Mr. Robert Pollin (professor of economics and Co-Director, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, United States of America); and Ms. Gayle Schueller (Vice-President of Global Sustainability, 3M Company, United States of America), and the discussant was Mr. Peter Poschen (Director, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department, International Labour Organization). The panellists and the discussant made presentations and an interactive discussion ensued, during which the panellists and the moderator responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Kazakhstan and South Africa and the observer for the United Arab Emirates.*

2. **Mr. Ryder** (Director-General, International Labour Organization), delivering a keynote address on the topic "Making dignity and prosperity the norm", said that labour rights were human rights that must underpin ongoing global efforts to raise the living standards of the hundreds of millions of women and men who, despite working hard and long, were unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. There was no necessary trade-off between promoting rights at work and creating jobs for the unemployed and underemployed. Real development required a package of overlapping mechanisms that progressively facilitated the exercise of a growing range of freedoms.

3. The International Labour Organization (ILO) was devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. To that end, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work set forth four fundamental principles and rights that stakeholders should strive to uphold: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. Guaranteeing those principles and rights was of particular significance in global efforts to link social progress with economic growth because it enabled people to claim freely, and on the basis of equality of opportunity, their fair share of the wealth which they had helped to generate and to achieve fully their human potential. Indeed, dignity and prosperity for the world's working women and men would be unachievable without respect for what were basic human rights. Labour rights and safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women, and those in precarious employment, were therefore critical to the success of efforts to promote sustainable development.

4. To achieve sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, employers' and workers' organizations as well as Governments and many other stakeholder groups must uphold the right to freedom of association, promote dialogue and ensure that the voices of all parties were heard. Rights, perhaps even more than financial mechanisms, were essential instruments for the implementation of the ambitious post-2015 development agenda, as they enabled all people to assert their claim to resources. The open world economy was not producing the quantity or the quality of jobs that people needed, with repercussions that were politically worrying and economically, socially and environmentally damaging. In an online rolling opinion poll conducted by the United Nations, in which over 7 million people had participated, better job opportunities, together with support for people who could not work, had been ranked first in a list of priorities. Reversing current trends in global labour markets and working to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030 were critical if stakeholders were to gather the political momentum needed to deliver fully on the promise of the post-2015 development agenda. The new post-2015 framework should constitute a global social contract for sustainable development, based on decent work for all, that promoted dignity and prosperity while strengthening links between the peoples of the United Nations and the Governments of the United Nations.

5. *A panel discussion on the topic "Making dignity and prosperity the norm", moderated by Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet (Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and Co-Chair, Group of Friends of Decent Work for Sustainable Development), was held. The panellists were Mr. Luis Eduardo Garzón (Minister of Labour, Colombia); Mr. Radosław Mleczko (Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Poland); Mr. Phil Jennings (General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland); and Mr. Edward Potter (Director of Global Workplace Rights at the Coca-Cola Company and Chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, United States Council for International Business). The panellists made statements and an interactive discussion ensued, during which the panellists and the moderator responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Colombia, Uganda and the United States of America.*

6. *Statements on the topic "Assessing progress 20 years after Beijing and Copenhagen" were made by Ms. Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania), Chair of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, and Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil), Chair of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.